be offered to employees, the public and other agencies like LIC and UTI; and

(b) if so, what is Government's decision in regard thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) A suggestion had been included in the papers prepared by ASSOCHAM for a Seminar on Fiscal Policy for Growth held on 13-04-1990 that 25% to 30 % of the share capital of some of the Public Sector Undertakings be disinvested and the concept of offering stock option to employees be widened.

(b) As this was only one of the point included in a background document for a technical session of the Seminar, the question of a Government decision does not arise.

Central Assistance to States for Debt Relief

*137. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to provide assistance to State Governments for debt relief; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) and (b) The Central Government has decided that it will bear the full responsibility of debt relief in respect of loans taken from public sector banks and Regional Rural Banks in the Central Sector. So far as Cooperative Banks and land Development Banks in the State Sector are concerned, in order to assist the State Governments in regard to debt relief scheme on the Central pattern, the Central Government will bear 50 per cent of the burden of relief on loans taken from these banks in the State Sector.

Promotion of Tourism

*138. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced a package of incentives to promote tourism in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to identify a large number of tourist spots in the country having potential for adventure;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what is the estimated expenditure to be incurred to boost tourism in the country during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM: (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) and (b) The Government have decided that new approved hotels set-up in selected areas not having 300 rooms of reasonable standard (3-star and above) would be exempted from expenditure tax for a period of 10 years and also be given 50% exemption from tax under section 80(1) of the Income Tax Act. The places designated for this purpose are the following:

(i) Hilly areas above 3000 feet

(ii) Rural areas

(iii) Pilgrim places

(iv) Places identified and notified by the Ministry of Tourism in the travel circuits where tourism is

sought to be developed. These concessions would be available only if the hotel becomes operational by December, 1993.

The other measures initiated by the Government to boost tourism in the country include liberalisation of Charter Policy, introduction of air taxi, development of new tourism areas, diversification of tourism product and additional facilities to tourists.

(c) & (d) Identification and development of infrastructure at places of tourists interest in the country including those having potential for adventure and sports tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, Central Government provide financial assistance on the basis of specific proposals subject to merit, *inter-se* priorities and availability of funds.

(e) The Planning Commission has allocated a sum of Rs. 67-50 crores for plan schemes of Central Department of Tourism during 1990-91. As the details of 8th Five Year Plan Scheme have yet to be finalised, it is not possible to indicate the allocation for 1991-92.

Promotion of Tourism in Orissa

*139. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for induction of mere tourist places during the current year has been received from the Government of Orissa" and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action is being taken, thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) and (b) There is no scheme of induction of tourist places, nor do the State Government need to propose or get approval cf the Central Department of Tourism fer developing tourism in their States. No such proposal, therefore, has been received from the State Government. However, a new extension circuit comprising of Bhubaneshwar, Chilka Lake, Ratnagiri and Lalitgiri, has been identified for promotion of tourist traffic.

Mulberry cultivation in Andhra Pradesh

*140. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state.

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated bv the Central Government to promote the cultivation of mulberry in Andhra Pradesh so a to increase the production of silks;

(b) if so, what financial and physical targets nave been fixed for the purpose; and

(c) what facilities and concessions will be given to the farmers in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) In order to promote the cultivation of mulberry and to increase the production of silk, the Central Silk Board (CSB) m collaboration with State Govt, of Andhra Pradesh is implementing a World Bank/Swiss assisted National Sericulture Project (NSP).

(b) The project hiving an outlay of Rs. 79.30 crores (including credit component) envisages *to* bring an additional area of 10,000 hectares